

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



Labor Day 70th Festival - annual meeting, needs volunteers, p.12

Buried Treasure review, p.12

VOL. 87, No. 16

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MARCH 7, 2024

Women in Greenbelt

Danielle McKinney: Greenbelt's First Black Woman on Council

by Melissa Sites

Danielle McKinney, Greenbelt's first African American woman elected to city council, is familiar with firsts in her family. Her mother was the first Black woman in the first class of women at St. John Fisher University, and became the first Black woman dean of students at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her brother became the first Black assistant general manager in the National Hockey League for the Florida Panthers.

Growing up in Albany, N.Y., McKinney had no Black teachers before college, but having two college-educated parents opened doors for her. As an eighth grader, McKinney attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., and went to Spain as an exchange student at the age of 15. These



PHOTO COURTESY DANIELLE MCKINNEY

experiences taught McKinney how to get to know people from different backgrounds. She studied educational leadership and policy at the University of Maryland, and thought, "If I'm going to be doing policy work I need to understand some of the issues that are going on in our urban schools." So she taught fifth grade with Teach for America in Long Beach, Calif., where she had 35 students, with two thirds as second-language learners. Her husband is a teacher at DuVal High School. McKinney currently works in training and development for Marriott and has lived in Greenbelt for five years.

McKinney's top priority is to be a consensus builder and

See **MCKINNEY**, page 7

Charlestowne North Receiver Appointed; Tenants Notified

by Erica Johns



PHOTO BY CHONDRIA ANDREWS

From left, Matt Staff, regional supervisor, Tarantino Properties; Sal Thomas, executive vice president for Multifamily Operations, Tarantino Properties; Terri Hraby, director of Planning and Community Development, City of Greenbelt; and Josué Salmerón, Greenbelt city manager

The Prince George's County Circuit Court appointed Tarantino Properties of Texas as receiver for the Charlestowne North apartment building on February 26, and Tarantino staff began working at the building on February 28. This occurred within one month of Freddie Mac's February 2 receivership filing in Prince George's County Circuit Court.

Charlestowne North tenants described receivership as "the best thing that can happen to us." (See **TENANTS**, page 7)

Crime Trends, Youth Offenders Discussed at Police Meeting

by Deb Daniel



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLON

More than 20 residents joined officers at the community meeting to discuss local crime.

On February 27, more than 20 residents joined Greenbelt police officers in a community meeting at the Community Center to discuss crime trends and prevention, juvenile crime and upcoming events. Other topics raised included traffic problems during road repair, dangerous vehicle exhibitions and funding bottlenecks.

Juvenile Offenders

Much discussion focused on juveniles who repeatedly break the law and receive only light consequences for their actions (usually the maximum sentence for a juvenile offender is probation with the family).

Some bills pending before the Maryland General Assembly

seek to address the problem of repeat juvenile offenders (HB814, SB744, SB0792). However, the legislation leaves many issues unresolved, for example, at what age juveniles can understand the consequences of their actions and what environment would foster

See **CRIME**, page 8

City and Franklin Park Ponder Maintenance and Finances

by Cathie Meetre

On February 21, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with Franklin Park management. Part of that meeting is described in a separate article on public safety (see the February 29 issue). In the meeting, Laurie Bonner, operations manager for Fieldstone Properties (owner of Franklin Park), and Franklin Park Manager Denise Knight fielded questions from council and attendees on multiple topics. To set the scene, Bonner described the massive complex of 153 acres, 246 buildings and 2,877 rental

units, stating multiple times during the meeting that Fieldstone's goal is to house people in quality, affordable properties. Franklin Park is divided into nine phases, each with its own boiler plant. In an interesting historical note, each of these phases was individually owned when the original Springhill Lake was built in the early 1960s.

Improvement Projects

Bonner commented that the replacement windows project is ahead of schedule and Fieldstone will shortly have completed three

of the nine phases. Each window and sliding door must be individually measured and built. The remaining six phases, however, are on hold and will need to be paced with cash flow. Even so, they expect to complete them within the original three-year target. Following the windows, interior hallways are to be updated.

Fieldstone has been following a program to install new roofs and high efficiency boilers. With one boiler section already

See **FRANKLIN PARK**, page 11

The News Review seeks web builders for website upgrade. See page 7.

What Goes On

Monday, March 11
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, March 13
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Northway Fields Security Improvement, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLON

On Sunday, March 3, the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band joined crafters at the March Artful Afternoon event. Together they celebrated the year of the dragon with paper-crafted dragons, music and dancing, along with a large dragon puppet that danced its way through the room.

Letters to the Editor

Don't Cut Bus Service

One of the first things I learned when I moved here was that the public transit was appalling. Not just WMATA, the county-run buses and UMD too. I made a list of ways to improve transit; cutting service was not on that list.

At a time when, for so many reasons, public transit should be encouraging more riders, cutting service is not an environmentally sound choice.

One example of the current service: to get to a venue in Montgomery County on a Saturday afternoon, a distance of perhaps 10 miles, the combination bus/train trip as directed would have taken me two hours each way, and the train portion took me out of the way, sending me south first to go north, wasting my time. The trip planning on the website is often like that, so I spend hours trying to figure out the real best way to get to places I want to go.

Another example, going to the post office on a weekday. I just missed the return bus and had to wait an hour for the next one. I don't want to stand around at bus stops, particularly in wet or hot weather, but infrequent service means I've had to.

We are blessed here in Greenbelt to have, for those eligible, GIVES and the Greenbelt Connection. I doubt others in the DMV have such service available.

Having the consequences of mismanagement fall on already badly served riders by cutting service, giving them even fewer options, is not the answer

Joan Estenson

Do We Need a New School Building?

To piggyback off the idea expressed in recent News Review letters to move the municipal offices to empty office space instead of spending millions of dollars for a new municipal building, the same should be considered for the Dora Kennedy French Immersion School.

Pros:

- 1) The school will remain in Greenbelt; transportation would remain the same.
- 2) A new school would not need to be built, saving millions of dollars.
- 3) An existing old school would not have to be extensively rehabbed.

See LETTERS, page 6

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Origin

This film is Director Ava DuVernay's adaptation of journalist Isabel Wilkerson's nonfiction work *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. While grappling with tremendous personal tragedy, Isabel sets herself on a path of global investigation and discovery. Despite the colossal scope of her project, she finds beauty and bravery while crafting one of the defining American books of our time. Starring Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, Jon Bernthal, Niecy Nash, Vera Farmiga, Audra McDonald and Nick Offerman. Said Sergio Burstein of the Los Angeles Times about the film, "Origin is a sincere, passionate and excellently acted film that takes us on a discovery, with wonder, of fascinating historical situations."

Bob Marley: One Love

This biographical drama celebrates the life and music of an icon who inspired generations through his message of love and unity. On the big screen for the first time, discover Bob's powerful story of overcoming adversity and the journey behind his revolutionary music.

The Taste of Things

Cook Eugénie (Juliette Binoche) and her boss Dodin (Benoît Magimel) grow fond of one another over 20 years, and their romance gives rise to dishes that impress even the world's most illustrious chefs. When Dodin is faced with Eugénie's reluctance to commit to him, he begins to cook for her. Said critic Max Weiss of Baltimore Magazine, "The Taste of Things is not just a sensual experience for the characters, but for the viewer as well. And it goes beyond the food."

Turn Every Page

This documentary chronicles the remarkable 50-year relationship between two literary legends, writer Robert Caro and his longtime editor Robert Gottlieb. Now 86, Caro is working to complete the final volume of his masterwork, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*; Gottlieb, 90, waits to edit it. The task of finishing their life's work looms before them. The film is an intimate look into artistry, mortality, antagonism and the transformative power of creative collaboration.

Howl's Moving Castle

Exquisitely illustrated by master animator Hayao Miyazaki, the film is a delight to children and adults alike. Sophie (Emily Mortimer) has an uneventful life at her late father's hat shop, but all that changes when she befriends wizard Howl (Christian Bale), who lives in a magical flying castle. However, the evil Witch of Waste (Lauren Bacall) takes issue with their budding relationship and casts a spell on young Sophie, which ages her prematurely. Now Howl must use all his magical talents to battle the jealous hag and return Sophie to her former youth and beauty.



Greenbelt Cinema

129 Centerway

301-329-2034

www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:

Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:

MARCH 8th - 14th

Origin (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (141 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 4:30 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)

Mon. 5:00 PM

Tues. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 7:45 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM

Wed. 7:45 PM

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Bob Marley: One Love
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024)
(107 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Mon. 2:15 PM (OC)

Wed. 8:00 PM

Thurs. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:00 PM

Sat. 8:15 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM

Tues. 7:15 PM

The Taste of Things (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (145 mins)
French w/ English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sun. 5:15 PM

Wed. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:15 PM

Mon. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 5:00 PM

Turn Every Page (PG) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (112 mins)
With post-screening guest
speakers!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 7:30 PM

Howl's Moving Castle (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2004) (129 mins)
Cinema Pop!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Mon. 8:00 PM



- by Sandy Rodgers, News Review, March 3, 2023

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at all Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

Storytimes

Friday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Pre-K Story Hour / Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder, Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974972.

Friday, March 8, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10082716.

Monday, March 11, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974725.

Wednesday, March 13, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9974752.

Talk Health

Friday, March 8, 11 a.m., ages 18+. Free blood pressure screening sessions led by University of Maryland School of Nursing students. Get blood pressure checked and a personalized review of medications. For more information only (no registration), visit pgmhs.info/event/10127171.

Talk Health Seminar

Friday, March 8, 12:30 p.m., ages 18+: Bring lunch for a learning opportunity for a discussion of heart health. A short presentation will be followed by discussion, a 20-minute energetic and low-impact seated exercise class, and a 5-minute mindful meditation practice. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10126902.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

PORCH Food Pickup Schedule for March

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and brings them to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry, making neighbors helping neighbors possible all year long. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept open containers or food that has expired.

March schedule:

Sunday, March 10 – by 11 a.m. for 1 to 8 Courts Ridge Road, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, March 16 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, March 17 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including Woodland Hills donors). If not part of a regular pickup route, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on March 17 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to any porch to pick up donations.

Sunday, March 24 – by 4 p.m. for 9 through 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome; especially needed are coordinators in Greenbelt East. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

St. Hugh's Seeks Help With Student Dinner

The St. Hugh's Parish Sodality hosts an annual Taste of Home event serving a home-cooked meal for Catholic University of Maryland students at the campus Catholic Student Center. This year's dinner will be on Wednesday, April 3.

The Sodality is seeking volunteers to make a menu item. For more information, to check out the menu or to sign up for a food contribution, call or text Cindy at 301-821-5967.

Luminis Health Offers Free Health Screenings

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol screenings on Wednesday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Doctors Community Medical Center, on the first floor of the North Building.

Bilingual Story Time At Springhill Lake

On Friday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and families.

Libros, Bolas, Burbujas ...

Diversión!

El viernes 8 de marzo a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Poetry in The Garden

The poetry group will meet in Schrom Hills Park on Sunday, March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. The group is open to everyone. Bring a favorite poem to read or come to listen and enjoy listening to others. For more information call Effie at 443-415-1053.

Yarn Donations Needed

Gifts from the Heart is a group of knitters and crocheters meeting Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Every year they donate hundreds of hats, scarves, shawls, blankets, walker bags and baby items to schools, churches, nursing homes, Project Linus and other organizations. Donations of acrylic yarn are welcome and may be dropped off when the group meets or at the Community Center office during business hours.

Greenbelt Chess Club March Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet at the Youth Center on March 12, 19 and 26. The meetings run from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. This group is for all ages and skill levels. For questions, contact Effie at 443-415-1053.

Labor Day Committee Meets on Tuesday

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee will hold their annual membership meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center. The meeting marks the start of planning for the 70th Festival, which will be held over Labor Day weekend. At the meeting, the all-volunteer committee will elect the board of directors, pass a budget and begin planning for this year's Festival. New volunteers are welcome to attend the meeting and sign up to help. For more information, visit greenbeltlaborday.com.

Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert March 17

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert on Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The orchestra will perform Schubert's Symphony #8, as well as works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns and Grainger.

To find out more about the orchestra, visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. If public schools are closed (or open late) due to weather issues, the meeting is canceled for the day. The club is now collecting dues for 2024, which are \$15 for the year. For paid members, a part of the dues goes toward a discount for the annual luncheon on April 17. Paying dues by check is preferred; make the check payable to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Remember to pay dues and sign up for the luncheon as soon as possible. Luncheon prices are \$15 for members and \$32 for guests.

The club will be having a Spring Ticket Raffle Auction on April 10. Donations of items to be auctioned will be accepted until April 3.

March activities:

March 13, Sheila Maffay-Tuthill presentation on Greenbelt Museum

March 20, Birthday celebrations; bring lunch and a dessert or finger food to share.

March 27, Bingo

Dem. Club Features Women in Politics

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club is hosting a panel discussion on women in politics, featuring elected women from the greater Greenbelt area. The event is Sunday, March 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Greenbriar Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway.

Attendees are encouraged to come in green in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

Sewing Class Sundays

The SPACE: Free Art For All is starting a Sunday sewing class, Sew, What?! from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the former Big Lots location upstairs at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. The classes are open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
WINTER HOURS: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm;
Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 3/07	FRI 3/08	SAT 3/09	SUN 3/10
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm	The Sandra Dean Band 7-10pm Fresh interpretations of Rock, Blues & Soul	NDC COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, EARLIER TIME: 12-1:30pm Black Masala 7-10pm A NDC Fav!	DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30-12NOON Organized 6-8pm DC's five-piece organ trio playing the 60's
Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-in Jam 6:30-10pm Let's jam!			
MON 3/11	TUES 3/12	WED 3/13	TH 3/14
Member Appreciation Night 4-9pm Discounts for members!*	Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 7-9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6:15pm	Potecasi Slade & The Saturday Night Specials 7-9pm Funky, soulful Blues	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Pilgrims of Deep Run 7-9pm Pre St. Pat's Day Celebration!
			HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

*Join NDC! Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES. Contact: jbelltower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!



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Streaming on www.greenbeltaccesstv.org

Community-Driven Storytelling

GATE

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

Community-Driven Storytelling

GATE

Obituaries

Harry "Hank" Irving



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Hank Irving

Harry "Hank" Gerald Irving of Greenbelt died in his home on Sunday, March 3. Born on January 4, 1945, in Mt. Rainier, Hank's life journey was one of dedication, service and love.

During his formative years, Hank attended St. Ambrose Catholic Elementary School, followed by Bladensburg High School and St. John's College High School, where he was on the varsity football and wrestling teams. He was a dedicated member of the JROTC. Following graduation he enlisted in the Army, eventually becoming a drill sergeant during the Vietnam era, where he dedicated himself to training and mentoring other young soldiers.

Upon his return from service, Hank earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in Recreation and Parks Administration from the University of Maryland, College Park, the field which would become his life's work. During those summers away from school he enjoyed serving as a part-time police officer in Ocean City.

It was at the University of Maryland where Hank found the love of his life and wife of 45 years, Maureen "Moe." They were married on February 26, 1976, and in 1978 they welcomed identical twin daughters Christy and Kelly.

Hank's 38 years of service as director of the Greenbelt Recreation Department began in 1971, and he left an impression on the community that will never be forgotten. His tireless efforts led to numerous additions and improvements to the city's recreational facilities and programs, including the development of the indoor Aquatic & Fitness Center, Schrom Hills Park, the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, the Skate Park, the Community Center and much more. His efforts along with his unwavering support and mentorship of his staff earned him the admiration of his beloved work family for 38 years. He was also an active member of both the Maryland and National Recreation and Parks Associations throughout his career.

Hank took delight in bringing laughter to family and friends with his jokes and silly gags. He loved annual St. Patrick's Day parade celebrations and shenanigans, summers eating crabs, vacations on Cape Cod with Moe's family, who he held dear, and taking weekend trips with his wife and daughters. He enjoyed British TV, old movies, University of Maryland football and the Washington Redskins. He was a lifetime member of the Greenbelt American Legion where he and Moe enjoyed many Labor Day and 4th of July celebrations.

But Hank's greatest joy in life

See OBITUARIES, page 6



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Esther Robinson. She will be remembered for her love of the Golden Age group.

Condolences to the family and friends of Sue Marie Johnson. She was a construction industry leader and worked on many local projects.

Sympathies too to the family and friends of Henry "Hank" Irving whose many years of service to the Recreation Department will not be forgotten.

Condolences to the friends and family of Robin Olson who died suddenly on March 5. She was a dedicated and engaged member of the community and will be missed by many.

Congratulations and good luck to Erin Dougherty who has been nominated for America's Favorite Teacher through the Reader's Digest competition.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Robin Olson

The funeral for Robin Olson will be held at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday, March 10 at Mishkan Torah, with interment following at Judean Memorial Gardens in Olney at 12 noon. Plans for shiva are pending.

Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays, All Welcome

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, contact Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.

Mishkan Torah Invites All to Celebrate Purim

Mishkan Torah invites the community to join in for Purim, with an exciting, free lineup to celebrate a favorite holiday.

Bake Hamantaschen with the Karp Family School on Sunday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A Purim Party will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Kids and adults are encouraged to come in costume. Enjoy pizza, an all-ages Purim spiel and a multilingual megillah reading on Saturday, March 23, starting at 6 p.m.

Visit MishkanTorah.org for more information. RSVP for the baking and party to childrens@mishkantorah.org.

"The troubles of this world pass, and what we have left is what we have made of our souls." — Shoghi Effendi



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

Lent-Week #4

All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him(Jesus).

Isaiah 53:6



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 10, 2024 at 3:00

New Ways Ministry Speaks

Francis DeBernardo and Sister Jeannine Gramick
with Worship Associates Carol Boston and Carol Carter Walker

In 1976, a Catholic Bishop wrote a pastoral letter, Sexuality: God's Gift, one of the first statements to contain a compassionate and encouraging message to gay and lesbian people. He addressed the LGBTQ+ community directly, saying, "We pledge our willingness...to try to find new ways to communicate the truth of Christ because we believe it will make you free." That passage and the term, new ways, caught the attention of a priest and nun team who were already ministering to the gay and lesbian community. A series of workshops then gave rise to New Ways Ministry, a non-profit advocating for Catholic gay and lesbian concerns. Today, we will hear from its Executive Director, Francis DeBernardo and Co-Founder Jeannine Gramick about this work and see its intersectionality with ours.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Greenbelt Community Church



One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church

Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD

www.greenbeltcummchurch.org

College Park United Methodist Church Mowatt Memorial UMC



LENT SEASON

It is a time of self-examination and
reflection on God's infinite love.

Lenten Bible study

7:00 p.m - 8:30 p.m
Wednesdays
thru March 20th

Prior to our bible study at 6 pm, we will host a light communal meal that consist of soup, bread, and a drink prepared by our Community Meals Chef, Chris Hough.

This six-week bible touches on the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on a new life and redemption rather than loss.

9601 Rhode Island Av, College Park MD

Saturday Egg-stravaganza

1 p.m - 2:30 pm
Kids pre-K through 5th grade are invited for a fun-filled Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th.
Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

Greenbelt Baptist Church

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
 - Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
 - Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
- Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltdm.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

QUARTERLY CITY CONNECTER

The City Connector has been a publication of the City of Greenbelt since 2008. City Departments are solicited for each issue in order to provide a well-rounded newsletter. Each newsletter includes information about City services, events, and other governmental services.

Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector today! #StayConnected

Visit <https://ow.ly/h76W50QvXhW>.

WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt's Public Information Office is now accepting items (e.g., flyers, pens, calendars, maps, postcards, brochures, tchotchkies, etc.) to be added to the 2024 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 200 promotional items to the address below by Friday, April 19.

Contact candrews@greenbeltdm.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit www.greenbeltdm.gov/BYOBag.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Petitions and Requests
- Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
- Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
- ACE Educator Awards Ceremony
- MeatOut Day Proclamation
- National Women's History Month Proclamation
- * Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- * Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS

- Bridge Remediation Repairs - Contractor Recommendation
- Legislative Bill Review
- Motion to Donate a Greenbelt Flag to the County Library
- Meeting - Discussion of Summer Meeting Schedule
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * Meetings
- * Stakeholders
- * Re/Appointment to Advisory Board
- Letter - Proposed Minor Amendment to the 1989 Approved Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment for the Langley Park-Greenbelt and Vicinity

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdm.gov.

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 11 - 15

- Saturday, March 9, 1 - 5 pm, REPARATIONS COMMISSION RETREAT
- Wednesday, March 13 at 7:30 pm, WORK SESSION - NORTHWAY FIELDS SECURITY IMPROVEMENT

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdm.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdm.gov/calendar.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION Open Registration

- Please remember that you must register each month.
- Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate.
- To register: <https://forms.gle/uYJLegTD7HGjaAz76> or call (240) 424-0302.

PARENT & BABY WELLNESS FAIR April 3, 10 am - 12 pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane



Must register by March 27.

Fair includes health screenings, diapers & other giveaways, nutritional education, period products, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) education, pediatric CPR training, and more.

Contact Brendy Garcia at bgarcia@greenbeltdm.gov or call (240) 424-0302.

Register at <https://forms.gle/jpdsDQFg46d9C3At9>.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- March Emergency Diaper Program
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm
- Senior Driver Safety & Mobility Seminar
March 7, from 7 - 8 pm, Virtual

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltdm.gov/CARESprograms.

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE www.greenbeltdm.gov/activityguide

Registration currently open for residents;
Registration opens at 10 am on March 11 for Non-Residents

GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL BURIED TREASURE

March 9 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Be transported on a magical adventure by Buried Treasure, written and directed by Christopher Cherry.

Saturday, March 2, 7 pm, Sunday, March 3, 3 pm, Saturday March 9, 2 pm & 7 pm. Greenbelt Community Center Gymnasium. All ages. \$5.

Purchase tickets at the Community Center Business Office or by phone at (301)-397-2208.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3ul0tFq>.

NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024

MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at biketoworkmetrodc.org:

Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, dquynnreno@greenbeltdm.gov (240) 542-2053.



GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM

Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephas@greenbeltdm.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdm.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS

MARCH 21, APRIL 18, & MAY 16

TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltdm.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltdm.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.

To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm



GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

Grants include:

Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships

First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development

Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

Obituaries continued

was playing golf alongside his wife Moe. They took up the sport later in life and fell in love with it immediately. Hank often tried to figure out a way to outscore Moe, who had a natural gift for the game, but he rarely was able. And that was more than alright with him.

Hank's legacy of dedication, service and love will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know him. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.

In his passing, Hank is reunited with his beloved Maureen and departed loved ones, including his parents Emily and Henry Irving, his sister Patricia Wildman (Ted) and brother Timothy Irving (Linda). He is survived by his daughters, Kelly Irving and Christy Irving (Jason), his brothers Michael Irving (Pinky) and Kerry Irving (Chris) and sister Teri Knott (Dan), as well as a host of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services are being arranged at Holy Trinity Church in Cape Cod, Mass., with a local Celebration of Life planned for Hank in the future.

Sue Johnson



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Sue Marie Johnson

Born in December of 1947, Sue Marie Johnson (née Vradenburg) died on December 19, 2023.

Sue graduated from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 1966 and later obtained a law degree from the University of Maryland. She was an industry leader for women in the construction industry. She served as the publicity chairperson for the Greater Washington D.C. Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction and attained the titles of comptroller and IBM Systems 32 data processing manager in the 1970s while at Standard Electric Company. In those capacities, she worked on widely ranging projects from the D.C. Metro Subway Farecard Collection System to residential condo/apartments at Greenbriar/Glen Oaks in Greenbelt.

Sue also had a consulting business for seniors as well as a private catering service. She is remembered for her flair for decorating and entertaining, her unique sense of humor and her eye for order and efficiency. She loved shopping at thrift stores, collecting turtle artwork and clocks, conducting yard sales and taking walks with her best friend Tiger, a Shih-Poo.

Sue grew up all over the world, including Italy, Japan and several states, living wherever her father, Brady Vradenburg, a captain in the Army, was stationed. Among those, her favorite home was Williamsburg, Va., where her mother, Nancy Vradenburg,

was a character-docent in the village. She lived in College Park and Greenbelt (Glen Oaks and Westchester Park) for over 20 years and would host "porch socials" with her neighbors. Her last months were spent in Venice, Calif., with her family.

Sue is survived by her niece, Rebecca Chou (daughter of Sue's sister, Kathryn Hoover), and her two great-nieces, Juniper and Ivy Chou. Donations can be made to the COPD Foundation in her memory at copdfoundation.org.

Esther Robinson



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Esther Robinson

Esther Robinson died on February 23, 2024. A resident of Greenbelt since 1990, Esther was an active member of the Golden Age Club and enjoyed participating in the many activities that were offered. She was a dearly loved mother and grandmother (Mimi) and she will be greatly missed by her loving family and close friends.

A funeral service will be held at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Largo on March 13 at 11 a.m., followed by interment at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.



City Notes

The Arts Program's Youth Musical, an all-hands-on-deck effort, was facilitated by Recreation and many other city staffers. Arts also presented a dragon-themed Artful Afternoon. The Greenbelt Museum and the Reparations Commission presented a Black History Month event at the Greenbelt Library, drawing 70 attendees.

City Manager, Planning, Freddie Mac and Tarantino Properties toured Charlestowne North. Human Resources and Finance met with a health insurance broker. The City Manager and the Planning and Economic Development departments met with Roosevelt Center owners.

Animal Shelter residents are 12 cats, five kittens, four dogs and a rabbit.

Environmental/Sustainability Coordinators, Compost Crew and USDA representatives toured the Trinity Church composting site. Street crews set up furnishings for a reusable bag giveaway.

The Community Center accommodated the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program's diaper distribution, Scouts, Golden Age Club, Concert Band, Community Orchestra, Honk! Situation, Greenbrook Estates, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Police, Planning, Farmers Market, Astronomy and six rentals.

Park Rangers trained Recreation staff to use Google Translate and Information Technology upgraded police radio routers.



Letters continued

4) The drinking water problem would be solved.

Obviously, there are security issues to consider. For example: locking security entry doors on the floor(s) the school would be on, proximity readers for entry by students and personnel, resource

MCF Community Church Has Reusable Bags to Hand Out

Maryland Christian Fellowship Community Church (MCF) will donate 2,500 reusable tote bags to Greenbelt residents at various locations on Saturdays March 9 and 16, from 1 to 5 p.m.

"For many families, paying for bags or purchasing reusable bags is yet another challenge in an already difficult journey," says Pastor Jeff Warner of MCF.

The tote bags, measuring 20" by 13" by 8", will be offered in



PHOTO BY JEFF WARNER

person at the Co-op, Safeway, Giant Food, Target, Greenbelt Metro Station and Franklin Park (near the intersection of Cherrywood and Springhill Drive). For free delivery of four bags per family in Greenbelt, use the QR code below.



Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book cards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbelibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

Insect Art Crafting Workshop Saturday



PHOTO BY KAREN O. BROWN

Insect art created at a crafting workshop

College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) is sponsoring a free insect-art-making craft workshop this Saturday, March 9, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Old Parish House, 7411 Knox Road, College Park. Welcome Spring and all its glorious critters. Join arts educator and visual artist Karen O. Brown in this lively workshop using colorful recycled materials to create 2 and 3-D insects while learning about their anatomy and special characteristics.

Keep an eye out for items to bring, like brightly colored cereal boxes, cracker and cookie boxes, foil wrappers from candy – all make great insect parts!

Free, donations welcome. Find out more about this and other CPAE events at cpae.org.

The News Review Seeks Vendors for Website Upgrade

Courtesy of a grant from the City of Greenbelt, the News Review plans to make its website more robust, serviceable and maintainable.

Improvements include expanded ad processing and uploads of material.

The current website is viewable at www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Companies or individuals with the skills to perform these upgrades are invited to respond to a Request for Proposals (see QR code below) or at <https://greenbeltnewsreview.com/RFP/2024GNR-RFP.pdf>

A four week question and answer period will give potential contractors the opportunity to clarify the paper's needs. Final submissions will be due in early-to-mid April. Questions may be sent to GNRWebRfp@gmail.com



Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café (free)

Saturday Mar. 16 from 10 am - 2 pm

Quilting workshop Sunday March 17 (with fee)

at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library every Sat. 10am-12, Sun 11am-1pm

<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>



The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club

Invites you to a Panel Discussion on

"Women in Politics"

Featuring Elected Women from the Greater Greenbelt area

March 17, 2024 at 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Greenbriar Terrace Room

7600 Hanover Parkway

We encourage people to come in Green In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day!

News Review Plans Update To Its Old Online Presence

With much fanfare, the News Review implemented its new website in 2015. Former Member Joan Falcao had pioneered the first site in the early 2000s, but the new one was built by Diamante, a start-up born in Greenbelt's own MakerSpace. The design is relatively simple and appealing, especially given we're a newspaper and not primarily web-oriented, but like Fibber McGee's closet, it's long overdue for a cleaning out.

Enter 2024 and a grant from ARPA funds from the city to refresh the site and extend some of its capabilities. The News Review has put together a re-

quest for proposals (RFP) from web developers to find a vendor that can bring new life to our small but crucial enterprise. The RFP sets out what the newspaper needs and asks how the developer would address it. It asks for an estimate of cost. But it is flexible in nature, and discussion is expected before award.

If you or someone you know has experience developing small website applications, we'd be delighted to see this news passed on. The RFP is available at greenbeltnewsreview.com/RFP/2024GNR-RFP.pdf. Questions should be emailed to GNRWebRFP@gmail.com.



Near the end of a winter day, the late afternoon sun lights the treetops at the Lake.

MCKINNEY continued from page 1

listener. She values bringing underheard voices to the table, and suggests that more flexibility, such as holding council meetings in different locations around the city, could help residents bring their issues before council. "People might have transportation or childcare issues or work conflicts," she said. McKinney commends the city manager for putting council meetings on Facebook live, Zoom and Instagram. "We need to do a little more digging," she said, "to find where those channels are, and figure out how to frame the story and collect stories that are representative of all the different people. One of the reasons I started getting involved in the community was that there was not a lot of information coming to the newest part of Greenbelt in Greenbelt Station" (where McKinney resides). McKinney wants to bring more young people onto the youth advisory committees. "We have to think differently about how to reach out to the kids. The application process may not work," McKinney said. "Maybe we go to kids' night at the Youth Center. I would love to include kids from 7th and 8th grades." McKinney admires the Boys and Girls Club, which holds basketball games every Saturday at Greenbelt Middle School, stating, "It's important



Danielle McKinney

that we connect with the people who are already doing the work."

McKinney has a passion for gardening. On her balcony she has grown Brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, romaine, arugula and herbs, and she loves to make salad dressings with what she grows. Her grandfather, who grew up in South Carolina, shared the love of gardening with her. After being on a waitlist for four years, she managed to get a garden plot on Gardenway. In the 10 x 50-foot space she put in six 4 x 6 raised beds. "My father came down and helped me put up a shed," she said. She plans to put in a rain barrel with solar timed drip irrigation. Growing

food to increase our local food supply is important for McKinney. "We have the space to grow," she said, describing space-conscious ways to grow food without impacting Greenbelt's tree canopy.

McKinney is determined to make the most of green spaces around Greenbelt Station. "The Neighborhood Design Center in Hyattsville partnered to do a green space master plan," she said. "We did community walks and mapped out how to bring more facilities onto that side of town: basketball courts, pickleball, dog parks, gardens. I want to figure out from a budgetary standpoint when we can move forward, and bring in foundation partners to help fund it."

McKinney continues to be inspired by the memory of Ric Gordon and his support when she ran for council. "He was truly an amazing person – his sense of optimism; it was truly about bringing the people together," said McKinney. "There's nobody that could ever replace or fill his footsteps, but I do feel an obligation to do my very best because that's what he would have done."



Rec Spring Activity Guide Is Live Online

Greenbelt Recreation has posted its spring activity guide online at greenbeltdmd.gov/activityguide. Registration is already open for Greenbelt residents and opens for non-residents on Monday, March 11 for all spring classes. The spring and summer camp guide can be found at greenbeltdmd.gov/camps. Camp registration is ongoing for all.

Luminis Health Offers Free Diabetes Classes

As part of its community outreach program to serve vulnerable populations and to prevent and manage chronic conditions, Luminis Health is offering a nine-month diabetes prevention program. The free virtual classes for people who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes or are at risk for diabetes will meet on a weekly basis for the first four months, then once per month for the next five months. Beginning on Monday, March 11, the classes will meet on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The evidence-based program is targeted to individuals with pre-diabetes with the goal of weight loss and behavior change. A specially trained lifestyle coach will lead the program, which will include a support group of people with similar goals and challenges. The classes will focus on how to eat healthy, be active, self-monitor, problem solve, manage stress, stay motivated, be positive and change participants' lifestyle.

Register for the free classes using the Eventbrite link at [eventbrite.com/e/diabetes-prevention-program-dpp-tickets-807173516717](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/diabetes-prevention-program-dpp-tickets-807173516717) or call 443-481-5555. Additional details and instructions will be sent after registration.

TENANTS continued from page 1

Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón notified tenants of the receivership approval by email on February 27. He said lender Freddie Mac, Tarantino and the city were preparing a work plan to prioritize the building's code violations and expected the building's office phone and email to be established within days for resident communication with Tarantino staff. Salmerón said residents should expect direct communications from Tarantino Property Management.

Rental License, Rent Collection

Terri Hruby, the city's Planning and Community Development director, explained that her office issued a three-month conditional, temporary license to Tarantino. The license will remain valid as long as Tarantino makes acceptable progress toward addressing property maintenance violations that her office identified for immediate and priority action. Tarantino was to provide payment instructions to residents and begin collecting rents effective March 1. When all open violations are abated, the city will issue a non-conditional license, valid until the property's annual license renewal date in August 2024.

Utilities and Trash

WSSC issued a February 22 notice for water and sewer charges unpaid since August 2023,

upon which the city negotiated a hold on disconnecting water and sewer service. Tarantino is addressing unpaid bills from WSSC, Pepco, Washington Gas and the waste collection service. On February 28, Greenbelt Public Works staff cleared the building's trash chute which was full up to the eighth floor, the building's top floor.

City Commitment

Mayor Emmett Jordan said, "We are relieved that the ongoing issues with Charlestowne North ... are being resolved. Our residents can now begin to return to a sense of normalcy and stability with their living arrangements. We are also thankful that, as a team, we were able to help our constituents in their time of need." Salmerón said, "This is a crucial step toward resuming normal operations and ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents at Charlestowne North Apartments, but much work remains to ensure the long-term sustainability of the property. We remain committed to supporting the residents and working with the lenders, property management and residents during this process." He emphasized the city's continuing commitment to communicate prompt updates to residents to ensure they have legitimate information throughout this process.

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New Listing
10X Southway
\$295,000

Addition with an extra full bath, large and well organized laundry room, big deck, huge sunny yard in a stylish, meticulously updated Greenbelt co-op end unit. Is this the one you've been waiting for?

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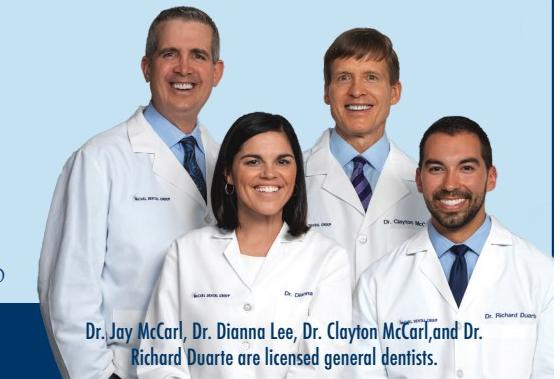
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Pool, Fields and Charlestowne North Occupy the City Council

by Maurice Crawford

The Greenbelt City Council met on Monday, February 26 and discussed a range of topics, including the status of the Charlestowne North apartments, equipment purchases for ballfield maintenance, repairs to the indoor pool at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, the Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DFKI) school and Metro's plans to reduce services.

Charlestowne North

City Manager Josué Salmerón updated council on the status of the Charlestowne North Apartments and was happy to report that as of February 26, a judge had approved the receivership motion. The legal and property management teams will be working to address the code violations and other immediate issues facing the property. Freddie Mac has provided an advance of funds to help stabilize the property and water and electric providers have placed a hold on disconnections. There is no disconnect notice for gas but there are outstanding bills. Salmerón stated that there is much that remains to be done, including the foreclosure process, but the long-term goal is to find a new property owner.

Salmerón felt that some lessons learned from this situation that should be explored include developing a robust right of first refusal which would prioritize the renters' offer to purchase a property if it is for sale. Also, learning what more can be done from a code enforcement perspective that will provide better protection for residents.

Councilmember Jenni Pompi asked if any legal action was going to take place. Salmerón said they were looking into this with the state but that the residents have filed complaints with the Attorney General's Office. Councilmember Silke Pope wanted to make sure that council remained informed and asked if there was a process for this. Salmerón made it clear that the city intends to remain involved until a new property owner is identified.

Ballfields

Public Works staff sought approval to spend \$352K of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for equipment used to maintain ballfields including a tractor, batwing mower, ballfield groomer and other items. Some of these equipment pieces were purchased in 1995 but now need to be replaced. Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt that the ARPA funds should be invested

in Greenbelt West to develop play areas for children, and not on equipment that the city will purchase over the years. This led to a discussion on what areas of Greenbelt have been most supported by ARPA funds. That point of discussion was not resolved but council approved the expenditure.

Indoor Pool

Council approved a request to spend \$38K on pre-construction engineering services to assess the cause of water pooling on the interior pool deck surface. Assistant Director of Public Works Brian Kim said the problem is that at the deep end of the indoor pool, water is settling between two layers and not flowing into the drain. It is a serious issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

Public Works staff have proposed that engineers be hired to investigate the problem and recommend how to repair it. There were some questions about when the assessment would begin and how it would affect pool operations. Salmerón thought the team could be onsite in two weeks, and that their work would have a minimal impact on pool hours. He said, however, that this is the first step in the process and the second step would involve repairs to the pool, which will likely affect pool operations. More will be learned after the initial assessment is completed.

State Legislative Bills

There were two bills discussed during the meeting. The first bill (SB0654, HB0821) would create a student support specialist network with specified membership in each public high school in Prince George's County, and requires each network to develop, complete and implement a student support success action plan. There

were several questions regarding implementation of the bill and the associated costs. Salmerón mentioned that all bills are supposed to be assessed for fiscal impact and ensuring that a bill works at the local level can be challenging.

The second bill (HB095) would require the governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund of at least \$80,533,314 to the Locally Operated Transit System Grant Program for statewide program operations. For both bills, council decided to wait for more information before taking any action.

Dora Kennedy School

Council agreed to send a letter to the county historical commission asking that a historic site evaluation be made of the DKFI building. Council felt that such a designation would provide some level of protection for the building.

Metro Services

Council discussed the proposed changes to Metro services (see the February 29 issue). Mayor Emmett Jordan said that Metro has been challenged since the pandemic. Pompi believed that Metro has been historically underfunded which has exacerbated the current situation. Roberts pointed out that we spend far more on roads than public transit. The council agreed to write a letter to Metro opposing the changes.

Petitions and Requests

Resident Leon Schachter requested that council lift the current rule limiting service on advisory committees and boards to one at a time per individual when the additional committee or board meets only as needed. He noted

See COUNCIL, page 11

CRIME continued from page 1

that understanding of consequences if not the home or detention environment. It was generally agreed that besides the police enforcing the law, schools must confront rising truancy, legislation must be funded to be effective and parents need support in holding their children accountable for their actions.

Rising Crime Rates

Police Chief Richard Bowers identified as an especially concerning issue: the rising assaults on law enforcement officers during service calls. There were 12 assaults in 2023, up from two or three assaults in 2022. In 2023 the department had 33,000 calls for service and 500 arrests and only 10 use-of-force actions in all those calls. Across Maryland, the rate for most types of crime is rising. In Greenbelt, there was an overall 43 percent increase in crime in 2023 citywide. Leading the increase is automobile theft which was up 263 percent over 2022. In 2023, robberies were up 46 percent. Juvenile arrests were up 212 percent. All these incidents are included in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data which include theft, rape, robbery, murder and aggravated assault and totaled over 1,700 crimes in 2023. The city's population has increased but not enough to account for those high numbers.

This year, only six weeks in, compared to the same six-week period last year, automobile theft is down 50 percent and theft is down 254 percent but robberies are up 600 percent. These increasing calls for service and crime put additional work on police officers. Fortunately, the police department has additional support through partnership with the Prince George's County Police Department and the Maryland State Police. With extra patrols and partnerships, the toll on the city's police staff is heavy but the crime numbers are coming down. One problem that remains is theft

and armed robbery taking place around Greenbelt Middle School, frequently for items like shoes.

Crisis Intervention

The police Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) managed 500 crisis calls last year with 20 staff, not counting follow-up calls. Bowers considers this co-responder program, where police are paired with a crisis intervention staff person, to be a success. When appropriate, CIT partners with the city's CARES program to help find or provide interventions for the families, but CIT Supervisor Rachel Tobin reported a lack of systemwide resources for parents.

CARES provides a Youth Services Bureau, but funding for it from the state has been reduced. In this Maryland General Assembly session, bill HB1136, if passed, would restore some of the needed funding for the Youth Services Bureau.

Department Composition

Unice Pierre from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) asked Bowers to discuss diversity hiring in the police department. Bowers and Deputy Chief Tim White produced the following statistics for the 53 sworn police officers: 58 percent are people of color, 42 percent are white, and by gender, 84 percent are male and 16 percent female. Front-line supervisors are 33 percent white and 66 percent people of color (breakdown by gender was not shared).

Vehicle Exhibitions

Resident John Mills asked about the incident on Hanover Parkway where a mass of cars came together and would not disperse (see Street Takeover by Cars in the February 15 issue). Police from all over had to come to disperse the cars but no one was arrested. Greenbelt police officer Captain Jermaine Gullede explained that in a crisis, the best response is to ensure safety. He noted there were cars doing dangerous stunts and

See CRIME, page 9



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 26 - March 3, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department had two death reports, two domestics with arrests and four mental health diversions, one involving suicide and another involving overdose.

Armed Person

On March 2 at 6:04 p.m. near 5701 Cherrywood Lane, two men were arguing and one displayed a knife in his waistband; they left when someone called 911.

Disorderly

On February 28 at 3:17 a.m. near 550 Crescent Road, inside the police station, a man appeared to be under the influence of PCP. He took a marijuana cigarette out of his pocket and was told he could not smoke it inside the station. The subject responded by pulling out his lighter and saying, "You gonna have to take me to jail." The defendant was arrested and actively resisted during the process.

DUI Arrests

On March 1 at 12:30 a.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, a truck ran a stop sign and made a wide turn, crossing into the opposite lane of traffic and almost striking a vehicle. After a field sobriety test, the driver was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

On March 2 at 12:14 a.m. near 5717 Cherrywood Lane, a truck was cutting off other drivers; the driver smelled of alcohol and was arrested for suspected DUI.

Fraud

On February 27 near 5917 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman's identity was stolen when she provided her bank account information and Social Security number to an investment company. On February 29 near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man's credit card was used at CVS and surveillance captured the subject on video. On March 2 near 5301 Settling Pond Lane, unauthorized charges appeared on a business credit card account and the bank was notified.

Theft

On February 27 near 7919 Mandan Road, medicine was delivered and stolen from a residence. On February 28 near 5907 Cherrywood Lane, an Amazon package was taken. On March 1 at 9:40 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a young woman was stopped for shoplifting; she was listed as a missing juvenile and was returned home. On Febru-



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Three More Teens Arrested In Murder of DuVal Student

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Last week Prince George's County Police arrested three more suspects in connection with the murder of DuVal High School student Jayda Medrano-Moore, whom police have identified as a Greenbelt resident (see the September 14, 2023, issue).

A 17-year-old male, who is accused of being the shooter, was arrested in the days following Medrano-Moore's murder. Three additional suspects have now been arrested and are accused of planning the fight and coordinating it via group chat and text messages. They are 18-year-old Ramon Richardson of Lanham,

18-year-old Cameron Anderson of Landover and a 17-year-old male from Lanham who is being charged as an adult. All those arrested were high school students at either Charles Herbert Flowers High School or DuVal.

On September 11, 2023, at approximately 3:45 p.m., officers believe 16-year-old Medrano-Moore was walking on Palamar Drive with friends after leaving school when a fight ensued between two groups as part of an ongoing dispute. A witness said the group had been followed by a suspect in a ski mask and further suspects arrived, getting out

of a car. During the fight, one suspect produced a gun. Detectives believe Medrano-Moore was attempting to intervene when she was shot.

State's Attorney for Prince George's County Aisha Braveboy said that although Medrano-Moore was not the intended victim, the fight was planned and the teens also planned to use weapons.

Richardson, Anderson and the two 17-year-olds are facing first- and second-degree murder charges. They are being held without bond.

CRIME continued from page 8

endangering people by shooting fireworks. The police did get everyone out safely and cleared the area – the nuisance cars then went into Anne Arundel County. Bills in the Maryland General Assembly (HB0601/SB0442) are addressing exhibition behavior and loud, dangerous driving.

Greenbelt East Paving

Mary Thomas from PSAC spoke about the lack of traffic control during the paving and construction on Greenbelt Road. She shared that four-way gridlock caused traffic to wait for an excessive amount of time. She had waited 10 minutes at an intersection to get from Greenway Center to Hanover Parkway. Greenbelt Police Department has been in touch with the state police about the traffic situation but noted the priority for the state police is ensuring the safety and protection of the highway workers. Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed optimism that the work will be completed soon as the street is now completely ground down and ready for paving.

Funding for Legislation

City Manager Josué Salmerón appreciated the police department holding community meetings. He stressed that legislation with full funding was critical to keep Greenbelt safe and juveniles protected as they grow.

Attendee Questions

Resident and former city councilmember Judith Davis asked if calls for service included every call, both emergency and non-

emergency calls. Bowers confirmed the calls included every kind of call, including traffic stops and animal control. Bowers did not have statistics on repeat offenders per a question from Davis.

Resident Connie Davis asked what the times for peak crime activity are. Bowers responded 3 to 11 p.m. are high crime hours.

Answering a question from PSAC Chair Peggy Higgins, Bowers noted that 3,300 of the 33,000 calls for service were traffic stops.

Resident Carolyn Lambright-Davis asked if police are engag-

ing with the community by getting out of their cars and talking with residents. Bowers mentioned the work of Franklin Park Partnership Officer Erick Alvarez in running a one-week program for mentoring children. Other officers spend their own money to buy food and school supplies for kids as they head home after school, he added.

Information on all the Maryland State Assembly bills can be found at [mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebpage_under_the_Legislation_heading_by_typering_the_bill_number_\(example:_HB0601\)_into_the_search_box](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebpage_under_the_Legislation_heading_by_typering_the_bill_number_(example:_HB0601)_into_the_search_box).



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FRANKLIN PARK continued from page 1

replaced, that plus the window replacement has shown considerable savings in energy. In addition, 14 buildings have replaced water heaters and the grounds have recently received \$100K in improvements to landscaping.

Pool Conversion

Since Covid, the second of the two pools in the complex has remained closed and Bonner and Knight confirmed that the remaining pool has not reached capacity usage during the last few summers. The plan for the coming year is to fill in the closed pool and develop the area for a variety of purposes: sports facilities, a second dog park, a grilling area and an updated play area, with the hope of an 18-month turnaround with work potentially starting this April. Bonner explained that running the pool is very expensive, especially since it only gets used three months of the year, and that Fieldstone believes a more extensively used area that costs less money is a sound strategy.

They have recently done resident surveys to identify the most-wanted improvements. Residents continued to express concern over lack of ballfields and the poor state of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Finances, Rent Stabilization Cap

At several points in the discussion, costs and cashflow came into focus. Prince George's County capped rent increases in new rentals to three percent, in temporary legislation being considered for permanent legislation. Bonner spoke of the pressures this creates when some of their costs, particularly insurance, have gone up by as much as 20 to 30 percent. She explained they can't afford to upgrade a vacated apartment when the new rent is so little above the earlier one and that this inevitably gradually impacts the quality of what they offer.

Delinquencies, some stemming from Covid, remain a problem with approximately 20 percent of tenants in arrears, of whom perhaps 80 to 90 percent are behind by 90 days or more. Bonner and Knight described how they work with tenants to enable them to retain their leases. Strategies focused on helping residents pay their way going forward and helping them reduce prior indebtedness by, for example, removing a late fee incurred earlier each time they complete a current month's payment on time. So far, there has

been one eviction this year.

Future Development

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked what impact the planned FBI building would have. Bonner repeated that they aimed to provide good quality and affordable housing and she thought this would resonate with FBI employees. She stated that it was, "balance between shiny and new and providing what people can afford." She reiterated that they would continue to upgrade units (noting that approximately 1,000 or one-third of the apartments now had washers and dryers).

With the anticipated Beltway Plaza redevelopment, Bonner stated that all issues are resolved with the shopping center and they were just waiting for a start date for the redevelopment.

Code Violations

City Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby commented on city inspections and code issues. She said that the annual inspection is in the spring, and as Franklin Park's rental license expires in May, city inspections are starting early and are increasing to 50 percent of apartments checked (up from 20 percent in previous years). The city is back to, and prefers to do, in-person inspections.

When asked about the penalties for infractions, Hruby stated that the owners have 10 days to remedy and to schedule reinspection and that additional time may be granted depending on what has to be done. She did note that if the matter went to court, backups there make it a multiple-month process to get a resolution. Fines are \$200 up to \$1,000.

In terms of Franklin Park, the city has received 74 complaints since July 1, 2023. A major area has been the scourge of rodents which, Hruby said, have been especially prevalent throughout the region this year and not only for Franklin Park. Knight was positive about working on their process to prevent infestation, describing how, in the case of persistent problems, tracking down the source often led to the people who didn't complain about infestations, with whom Franklin Park would work on issues like hoarding or hygiene.

Maintenance Issues

Residents attending the meeting brought up some extensive concerns, particularly about routine and emergency maintenance tickets that didn't get attended to, in some cases for months. Con-

cerns included a persistent roof leak, exterior lights being out for months and graffiti in playgrounds. A resident described the ticket system as "broken."

Franklin Park management appeared concerned to resolve these issues – especially with the contractor that fields nighttime and weekend emergency calls – and requested contact information from those at the meeting or contributing electronically to expedite the process.

Trash collection was also a concern, with dumpsters sometimes overflowing. Knight described how their maintenance crews trailed the trash trucks to clean up after the dumpsters were emptied. A discussion ensued about recycling (which is not currently provided) and Knight and Bonner were referred to the city's recycling coordinator,

Luisa Robles.

Looking Ahead

Jordan noted that applications are again being accepted for the county's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, funds designated to help those still impacted by Covid, and offered city help in applying. Fifteen-year resident Kevin Lockhart suggested a tenants' association could provide a useful source of input to Franklin Park management. Knight was quick to promote the idea of a team approach to garnering resident input rather than an association. Jordan wondered whether there were plans for electric vehicle charging stations, to which Bonner replied that Fieldstone was evaluating how to roll out a consistent program across all its Maryland and New Jersey properties.

COUNCIL continued from page 8

that for some such bodies an entire year could elapse without a meeting.

Concerned community member Malaika Nji-Kerber asked the council to do what they can to prevent the students at DKFI from being moved and to protect the historic building, which she described as "well-built and beautiful." The DKFI school itself brings families to this area, she said. "It is one of the main attractions for a lot of families that want to move here," she said, describing it as a top-notch public school and adding that, "It may be a specialized school, it may be a magnet school with a specialty in French Immersion, but it is full of public school students who live in this area." She felt that most of the students live here, they are community members and that they matter. The decision to

move the school had been made without consulting faculty or staff; and families found out from the Greenbelt News Review (see the February 1 issue). "It is one of the schools that raises our test scores countywide, statewide as well ... We need to do the best that we can to get PGCPSS to turn back from what was, in their own words, a bad decision," she said.

Jordan responded that they had been shocked to find out about this proposal and are working with their sister municipalities.

Council accepted a check from Guillermo Guerrero on behalf of the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club in the amount of \$250 for the city's Emergency Assistance Fund. Jordan thanked them for the contribution to the fund that assists displaced families.

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A Review

Greenbelt Youth Musical: Buried Treasure Enters Final Weekend

by Melissa Sites



From left, the Dummyshirts – Kellen Cole, Lucy Bindel, Lirael McFarland, Cameron O’Roark, Henry Turner, Caspaen Jackson, Gabriel Crompton and Shawford Jackson – with Harriet (Kira Wilkinson)

Three young adventurers explore themes of bravery, knowledge and perfection, digging deeper to get to the heart of these virtues that lie beneath the surface of what may seem obvious at first glance. With *Buried Treasure: An Underground Musical Adventure*, writer and director Christopher Cherry proves himself a master of clever words and catchy melodies, but just as impressive is his storytelling and development of themes across intersecting storylines.

Each of the heroes is devoted to a particular virtue, laid out clearly in the song *Brave as a Lion, Wise as an Owl, Good as Gold*. Josh (Donovan Amin) tries to prove his bravery to a gang called the Wildcats, and meets warriors underground, including Leopards and Tigers. Harriet (Kira Wilkinson), a young scholar who values knowledge above all else, learns to share her intellectual skills. Miranda (Hannah Baker) prizes perfection, but eventually comes to realize that a golden exterior may not reflect true virtue. All the leads deliver outstanding performances, inciting enthusiastic applause from the packed house.

Sometimes one actor will play more than one role. Jacob Royle provides the adventurers with advice as the mythological figures of Cerberus and Coyote, as well as puzzling mythographer Cato McSage. Nyle Karamat menaces the heroes as both a green dragon and a red dragon who's a little too fond of burning down libraries. These obvious doublings prepare the audience to look deeper within other characters, reinforcing the overall theme of the show: to try to perceive hidden truths beneath surface appearances. Choruses of warriors, ragamuffins, “Dunstans” and more allow actors to transform between roles and take on fun elements of movement, skipping, leaping and dancing. Water, fire and an amazing flight of bats are exciting theatrical elements.

With Greenbelt Recreation’s Nicole DeWald heading up production design, costumes and sets are simple but evocative. Costumes ranging from drab to shimmering, including gorgeous headpieces on the dragons, remind us again not to place too much value on appearances. Just a few well-designed set pieces bring the entire underworld to life. Beautifully rendered stalagmites evoke the cave setting,



- Photos by Judy Goldberg-Strassler

From left, Hannah Baker, Donovan Amin and Kira Wilkinson play the three adventurers.



From left, Ellie Young-Wilson, Ida Ellison, Mari Loucaides, Eleanor Cooper, Lirael McFarland (front, as Ragsy), Maeve Waters, Kellen Cole, Clara Bills and Tabitha Melin play the Ragamuffins.



Nyle Karamat plays the Red Dragon.

while two rolling screens come together to depict the facade of an ideal public library. The sets are then easily transformed into a girl’s bedroom, a roaring river and a princely palace.

Buried Treasure will show again on Saturday, March 9 at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Get tickets soon because this entertaining production is sure to sell out.

Labor Day Festival Marks Big Anniversary, Needs Volunteers

by Melissa Sites

This year will mark the 70th Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. The volunteer organizing committee will meet to kick off planning for the Festival on Tuesday, March 12. Linda Ivy, who has been on the committee for 31 years and has served as president for the last 17, said, “We would like to see more volunteers from the community. If they don’t want to make a commitment for the entire year, they could volunteer at the Festival for bingo or the photo show, just to name two.”

Jon Gardner first joined the committee in 2004 and has seen some changes over the years. The Craft Fair has become a big part of the Festival, and the Rising Stars talent show provides an opportunity for community participation. Adding a community art installation was new last year, and Gardner would like to see such projects continue. He added, “We’re hoping to make T-shirts for the 70th Festival. We’ll run a design contest, and then get shirts made up with the winning entry.”

Davina Johnson, who joined in 2008, said, “We have tried to keep the same feel to the Festival with similar rides, art show, Community Center games, parade, music and bingo. Although we have more food choices, we have vendors that have been with the Festival for many years.”

To involve Greenbelters who



live outside the city center, a shuttle bus rotates continuously during the entire weekend. Ivy suggests, “The entire community can get involved by volunteering or entering the photo show, art show or craft fair.”

Ivy says the greatest reward of being on the committee is “keeping a 70-year-old Festival that is all-volunteer going. To be part of a weekend that many call ‘Greenbelt’s Homecoming.’ To see the kids’ smiling faces when they get their wrist bands for an afternoon of carnival rides. To walk through and hear ‘bingo!’ To visit the craft fair to pick out unique gifts, or the photo and art shows that showcase the talent we have in Greenbelt. Businesses and groups can hand out flyers and talk to people and share community information. There are so many free things to do, like a day of kids’ fun on Braden Field. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and listen to some amazing music groups.”

“My greatest reward is watching it all come together year after year and see the smiles on all the faces of the people who attend as well as all the volunteers who make this happen!”

The Festival was started in 1955 as a way of raising funds to build a Youth Center, and is considered “one of Maryland’s largest all-volunteer organized events.”



Upgraded Spaces and Café Planned for Greenbelt Library

Planned improvements to allocation of space in the Greenbelt Library, aimed at greater convenience, security and enjoyment for visitors, were discussed in a February 14 meeting of city staff, city council and representatives of the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. Plans to relocate and reshelf the Tugwell Collection in the Library, and other community concerns, had prompted the meeting. Renovations should improve conservation of the Tugwell historical collection, upgrade security for Passport Services and provide a refreshment space for visitors.

A new café space with vending machines is planned to refresh visitors during long study sessions and provide a relaxed venue for lively discussions.

Passport Services, now on the lower level of the Library, will move into the former Tugwell space for safety and security reasons.

The new Tugwell Room is larger, more centrally located and better ventilated, Library staff emphasized. It will better conserve the historical collection and also improve seating and provide tables for visitors.



The future café at the Library

A celebration of the Tugwell Room is being planned to reacquaint the community with the collection in its new home and showcase the value and convenience of Greenbelt’s historical archive.

All the meeting participants reaffirmed their partnership, commitments and formal agreement about the Tugwell Room’s importance to Greenbelt.

During the transition, the Tugwell Collection is still available; Library staff will retrieve materials on request.

For more on the Tugwell Collection and its move, see last week’s issue.

This article is drawn from a press release.